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Everybody's Talking!

Map walk: In the village of Klejtrup, Denmark, a farmer turned the edge of a lake into a walkable map of the world using stones gathered from nearby fields over many years. What began as a personal pastime grew into a full outdoor model where visitors can step from one continent to another in minutes. Each section was carefully shaped to match coast-lines, with certain northern regions repeated to avoid the size distortions found on common wall maps. Paths, flags, and small bridges now guide travelers across the layout, making the globe feel surprisingly compact. The project remains a local landmark, offering a simple way to explore geography on foot.

Owl currency: Long before the modern Greek one-euro coin was minted, an earlier version of the same owl was used across the ancient world, first appearing around 2,500 years ago. In Athens, silver tetradrachm coins showed Athena on one side and her owl with an olive sprig on the other, becoming a well-known trade currency for merchants and travelers. The design stayed mostly the same for generations, making the "owl" one of the most familiar coins of its time. Greece later chose this symbol for the national side of its one-euro coin, keeping the bird inside a border shaped like an old piece of silver. Today the image connects the coin in people's hands with Greece's long history and the stories that shaped it.

Cactus sealant: Builders in parts of rural Mexico still rely on a cactus-based mixture to protect adobe homes, using a method passed down since long before modern materials arrived. The process begins by boiling pieces of prickly pear cactus until they release a thick gel that blends with water and lime, creating a coating that helps walls resist moisture and pests. Researchers have recently revisited this approach, studying faster ways to collect the gel for natural building work. The mixture can also strengthen handmade bricks, helping homes last in tough climates. Beyond construction, the same cactus is inspiring biodegradable products, showing how an old plant tradition remains useful today.

Waldo goodwill: While helping build a new children's hospital, a construction worker in Indiana (U.S.) found an unexpected way to lift young patients' spirits. Drawing on his love of art, he created a large wooden *Where's Waldo* figure at home and painted it with help from his daughter. Once finished, he began placing the character in shifting spots around the work site so kids watching from an upper floor could search for it each day. Nurses soon joined in by passing along sightings, turning it into a small routine that brightened hospital stays for many children. The simple game also built a connection between the crews and the children's families, showing how a light idea can offer comfort during difficult moments.

Quoteable Quotes

"The power to question is the basis of all human progress."
—Indira Gandhi

"If science fiction is the mythology of modern technology, then its myth is tragic."
—Ursula K. Le Guin

What's Happening

What is Rotary? Rotary is a global network of clubs with 1.2 million members - friends, neighbors, leaders and problem-solvers just like you. Make new friends and build your network. CONNECT with People of Action at the Rotary Club of Lake Conroe to do more than you thought possible! Email RotaryLakeConroe@gmail.com for more information.

Cars and Roads Playday - Big trucks, little cars and awesome Hot Wheels tracks. For ages 1 to 8. July 23, 10 to 11 a.m. at the Charles B. Stewart Library, 202 Bessie Price Owen Dr., Montgomery.

Sourdough for Starters - Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. Bake Buttery Sourdough Biscuits. Take home sourdough starter and recipes. For both beginners and experienced bakers. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Limited class size. Register at: <https://shorturl.at/Bw42c>

Montgomery ISD Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment - Now open for the '26-'27 school year. MISD offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program for four-year-old students, aligning with Early Childhood Outcomes and Pre-K Guidelines as established by the Texas Education Agency. Free for qualifying families. Learn more at: bit.ly/misdprek

Scan here to see more What's Happenings:

Trivia

1. Which actress starred in the movie *Some Like It Hot*?
2. How many bones are in the adult human body?
3. No bears are native to Australia—T/F?
4. A tennis ball has fuzz to slow it down, speed it up, or extend its use?
5. "Fauntleroy" is the middle name of this beloved Disney character.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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